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Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 018793-253

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Takeya ABE et al) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: Unassigned) Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: September 14, 2001)
For: PROCESS FOR PURIFYING AMIDE)
COMPOUND)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned patent application, kindly enter the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace claims 5 and 11, and add new claims 17-24, as follows:

5. (Amended) A purification process according to claim 3, wherein the amide compound is produce by a hydration reaction of a nitrile compound by using a microorganism fungus body containing nitrile hydratase or a processed product of the microorganism fungus body.

11. (Amended) A purification process according to claim 10, wherein the amide compound-containing solution has pH of from 3.5 to 6.5 upon contacting with the activated carbon.

17. (New) A purification process according to claim 2, wherein the amide compound is produce by a hydration reaction of a nitrile compound by using a microorganism fungus body containing nitrile hydratase or a processed product of the microorganism fungus body.

18. (New) A purification process according to claim 17, wherein the microorganism fungus body is a transformant obtained by expressing a nitrile hydratase gene cloned from the microorganism in an arbitrary host.

19. (New) A purification process according to claim 9, wherein the amide compound-containing solution has pH of from 3.5 to 6.5 upon contacting with the activated carbon.

20. (New) A purification process according to claim 19, characterized in that the amide compound-containing solution is prepared to be acidic by using an organic acid having an acid dissociation exponent of from 3.5 to 5.5 or by using said organic acid and a base.

21. (New) A purification process according to claim 20, wherein the organic acid is acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.

22. (New) A purification process according to claim 21, wherein the activated carbon is activated carbon made from wood or palm shell as a raw material.

23. (New) A purification process according to claim 22, wherein a temperature upon contact with said activated carbon is from 10 to 50°C.

24. (New) A purification process according to claim 23, characterized in that after making said amide compound-containing solution in contact with said activated carbon, a liquid obtained by separating said activated carbon from said amide-containing solution is set at a saturation temperature or lower to deposit crystals.

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REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, all multiple dependency has been eliminated from the original claims and new dependent claims 17-24 have been added so that the scope of the original multiple dependent claims has been preserved. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 14, 2001

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated September 14, 2001

Marked-up Claims 5 and 11

5. (Amended) A purification process according to claim [2 or] 3, wherein the amide compound is produce by a hydration reaction of a nitrile compound by using a microorganism fungus body containing nitrile hydratase or a processed product of the microorganism fungus body.

11. (Amended) A purification process according to claim [9 or] 10, wherein the amide compound-containing solution has pH of from 3.5 to 6.5 upon contacting with the activated carbon.